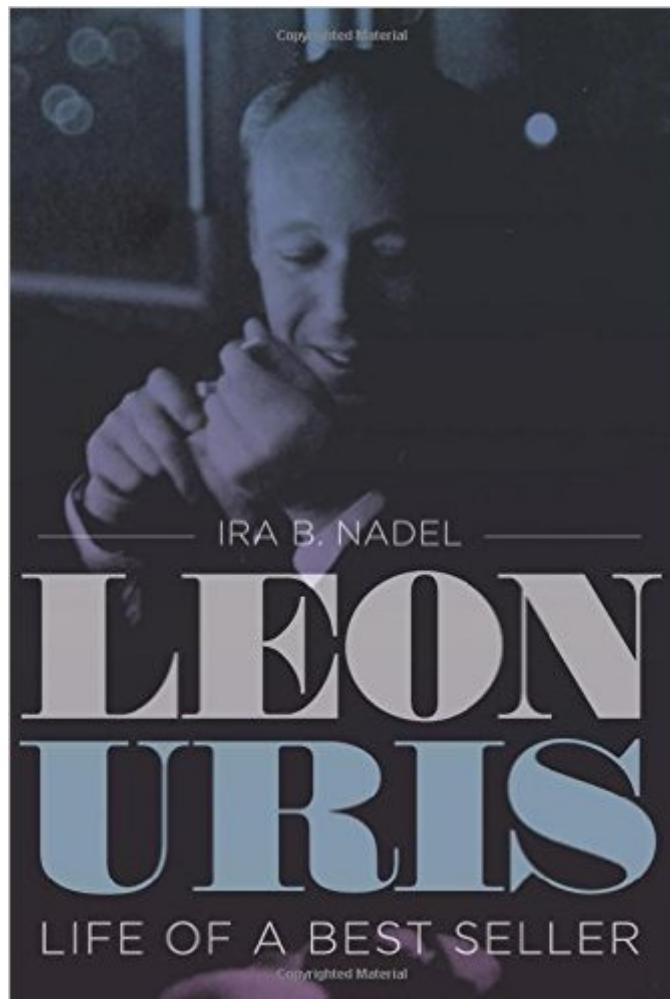


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Leon Uris: Life Of A Best Seller (Jewish History, Life, And Culture (Hardcover))



Synopsis

As the best-selling author of Exodus, Mila 18, QB VII, and Trinity, Leon Uris blazed a path to celebrity with books that readers could not put down. Uris's thirteen novels sold millions of copies, spent months on the best-seller lists, appeared in fifty languages, and have been adapted into equally popular movies and TV miniseries. Few other writers equaled Uris's fame in the mid-twentieth century. His success fueled the rise of mass-market paperbacks, movie tie-ins, and celebrity author tours. Beloved by the public, Uris was, not surprisingly, dismissed by literary critics. Until now, his own life—“as full of drama as his fiction”—has never been the subject of a book. In Leon Uris: Life of a Best Seller, Ira Nadel traces Uris from his disruptive youth to his life-changing experiences as a marine in World War II. These experiences, coupled with Uris's embrace of his Judaism and desire to write, led to his unprecedented success and the lavish excesses of a career as a best-selling author. Nadel reveals that Uris lived the adventures he described, including his war experiences in the Pacific (Battle Cry), life-threatening travels in Israel (Exodus), visit to Communist Poland (Mila 18), libel trial in Britain (QB VII), and dangerous sojourn in fractious Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic (Trinity). Nadel also demonstrates that Uris's talent for writing action-packed, yet thoroughly researched, novels meshed perfectly with the public's desire to revisit and understand the tumultuous events of recent history. This made him far more popular (and wealthy) than more literary authors, while paving the way for writers such as Irving Wallace and Tom Clancy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Leon Uris was a serious man who wrote about serious subjects. He didn't write potboilers or vampire novels. He wrote novels about recent history--World War II, the founding of Israel, the Warsaw ghetto, the Berlin airlift--and he laced his exciting narratives with heavy doses of genuine history. And the reading public of the 1950s and 1960s loved every word. Uris' massive research made him the master of journalistic fiction in the era of the Big Blockbuster Novel and in books like BATTLE CRY, EXODUS, MILA 18 AND ARMAGEDDON he dramatized historical events that often had a direct impact on the contemporary world. Sadly, in Nadel's biography the man behind these bestsellers comes off as a humorless, combative, controlling and grumpy individual who often mistreated his own children and hit on every woman in sight. The book does cover the highlights of Uris' tumultuous life including his falling out with director Otto Preminger over the making of the film version of EXODUS and the suicide of Uris' second wife. Occasionally, however, there are three or four year gaps in the biographical narrative that leave the reader wondering what happened during those years. One of the strengths of Nadel's book is the summaries of his subject's novels, which offers a terrific overview of some of the best books of the mid-20th century. One minor criticism of Nadel's biography is that the print in the hardback edition is unbelievably small, especially for an older audience, who would be the major readers of Uris' work. My advice would be to get the Kindle version, adjust the font and enjoy this behind the scenes look at the life of one of America's premier popular novelists.

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